

Byrd prods Israel on PLO

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd urged Israel Saturday to respond positively to the U.S. decision to drop a 13-year ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "I believe this shift in administration policy is a wise one," the West Virginia, a self-described friend of Israel, said in the Democratic response to President Reagan's weekly radio address. He said the PLO's willingness to meet U.S. conditions should be recognised as "an opportunity to be seized rather than a threat to Israel's security and existence." Byrd, who is stepping down as majority leader to head the Senate Appropriations Committee, expressed fears that hardliners on both sides would do everything to undercut the diplomatic initiative. "But it is my hope that the new government of Israel will see this diplomatic opening as an opportunity to develop a new national consensus regarding negotiations," with the PLO. "I speak today as a friend of Israel," he added, "a friend is someone who will urge you to do the right thing, even if it is the hard thing to do."



Group thanks Sweden

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Jordanians has sent a message of appreciation and thanks to the Swedish government for its role in and contribution to peace efforts in the Middle East. The message, signed by 10 prominent ex-members of parliament and physicians and addressed to the Swedish ambassador in Jordan, Lars Lonnach, said: "We would like to extend to Your Excellency our greatest appreciation for the Swedish government and the Swedish people's stand on behalf of justice and peace in the Middle East shown by their reception of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and their unflinching support and hard effort, to pave the road to peace in the Middle East. We hope Your Excellency would transmit this message of gratitude to the Swedish government and Swedish people for their admirable stand..." The message was signed by Dr. Jamal Shair, Dr. Carlos Dibis, Dr. Mohammad Najjar, Mr. Jams Obaidat, Dr. Wajid Barakat, Dr. Mohammad Khalaf, Dr. Mohammad Sabri, Dr. Mohamad Ishtieh, Dr. Suhaib Khoury, Dr. Ziyad Jamal and Dr. Roger Kayall.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmood, Saturday visits a desert area in the south where anti-locust operations are under way (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordan seeks anti-locust help

By Ziyad Al Shileh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday made an inspection tour of regions invaded by desert locusts in southern Jordan and was briefed on measures taken to combat the threat.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by special teams set to fight off dangerous insects, passed directions on methods to be taken in the operations.

Prince Hassan urged continued coordination among various authorities involved in the locust-fighting task on the one hand and teams themselves on the other.

The Prince paid tribute to the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Armed Forces and the Jordanian Royal Air Force and the badiya police who are taking charge of the operations.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by Agriculture Minister Marwan Humud and other officials.

The minister said earlier that

more efforts and speedy action were needed to eradicate the swarms of locusts that are already in Jordan and further swarms that could come from Saudi Arabia, which now abounds with locusts that invaded the country from Africa.

The present operations, the minister said, pave the way for more strenuous efforts to be made to combat more dangerous invasions expected in spring.

He said the Jordan was in need of more equipment and special vehicles to operate in desert terrain, communications equipment, and pesticides. He urged Arab and friendly states and international organisations, including the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, to extend help to Jordan to assist in its efforts.

So far, the minister noted, said area of 30 square kilometres in southern Jordan is covered with locusts and teams are hard at work to eliminate the pest.

See earlier story on page 3.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Papandreu threatens to resign

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu declared Saturday that he would resign from office if parliament did not approve his budget for 1989 as a financial scandal continued to rock his socialist administration. Speaking on nationwide television, the 65-year-old premier said he would consider a rejection of his 4.052 trillion drachma budget (\$27.9 billion) a vote of no confidence in his government that would force him to step down.

Bomb explodes in west Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A small bomb exploded at the entrance to an apartment building in west Beirut Saturday. Police said a nine-year-old girl was wounded. Minutes later, police sapper Bashir Idriss dismantled a bigger bomb shortly before the time it was set to explode in the same densely-populated neighbourhood of Tarik Jadideh, a police statement said.

Filipino rebels dismiss autonomy plan

CAIRO (R) — Muslims seeking self-rule in the southern Philippines said Saturday that President Corazon Aquino's proposal to grant limited autonomy to Muslim areas of the country was a propaganda ploy. "This is another empty gesture, if not a broken play and propaganda deception," the leader of the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Nur Misuari, said in a statement.

Angola Namibia pact boosts ANC

LUSAKA (R) — African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo said Saturday that recent peace moves on Angola and Namibia would boost his liberation movement's struggle to end apartheid in South Africa. "The welcome developments... in our region have initiated a trend that will not leave our country untouched. The momentum that will yield independence for Namibia will be carried forward to our struggle and the achievement of our independence," Tambo said. He said the South African government was now fumbling in the dark, unsure about the future. The ANC president led hundreds of mourners at the funeral of ANC executive member Johnstone Makatini who died in Lusaka Dec. 3 after an illness.

Nishanov delivers Gorbachev message to Al Hussein, reaffirms call for peace conference

King praises Soviet stand on Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday paid tribute to the Soviet Union for its positive stance with regard to Arab issues in general and the Palestine question in particular.

"The wise Soviet leadership is striving hard to find just and equitable solutions for all international problems in light of its 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' strategy," the King said at a meeting with Rafiq Nishanov, a member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and party leader of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

At the meeting, held at Al Nadwa Palace, Nishanov conveyed a message to the King from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with Jordanian-Soviet relations and means of bolstering cooperation.

Nishanov praised the role played by Jordan towards boosting bilateral ties and said that the

Soviet leadership admires the King's leadership and the progress and development achieved by the Kingdom under his reign.

Nishanov said his visit to Jordan coincides with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral ties, which have been enhanced over the years.

Nishanov underlined the importance of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict at an international peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Nishanov praised resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers in November and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva. The PNC resolutions and Arafat's speech removed hurdles in the path of the called-for international conference, Nishanov said. Israel, he said, should now take positive reciprocal moves to help achieve peace.

The Iran-Iraq peace negotiations, Nishanov said, should lead to normalised relations between the two sides and urged Jordan to continue its efforts to help the implementation of the Geneva agreements on the Afghanistan issue.

Present at the meeting were Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society President Babt Talhouni, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taha Al Masri and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchenko.

Palestinians begin new 3-day strike; 7 wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip launched a three-day protest strike Saturday to mourn the fatal shooting of five of their brethren a day earlier, and Israeli soldiers wounded at least seven Palestinians in renewed demonstrations and clashes.

On Arab Jerusalem's Saladin Street, the main shopping district, groups of Palestinians were seen sending street vendors home and asking shopkeepers to close to enforce the strike.

In Ramallah, streets were empty except for groups of masked protesters hurling rocks at Israeli troops, Israel radio said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, responding to the escalation in violence, accused Palestinians of trying to undermine the U.S.-PLO dialogue by protesting in the occupied territories.

Rabin made the comments Friday, one of the bloodiest days of the year-old Palestinian uprising.

In clashes in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank, Israeli

troops shot and killed four Palestinians. Arab doctors said as many as 32 were wounded elsewhere.

The fifth victim, 20-year-old Mohammed Al Kumi, died overnight of a chest wound at Nabulus Itithab hospital, officials said.

Nablus and the surrounding refugee camps, home to 120,000, were under army-imposed curfew since Friday. A 25-year-old curfew violator who decided to sneak out and visit his neighbour was shot in the leg, hospital officials said. Another Palestinian was wounded in the West Bank's Kafr Abush village.

At least 337 Palestinians have been killed since the uprising began.

Rabin, who opposes the American-PLO dialogue, warned that it may lead to an upsurge in violence by radical Palestinians opposing the move. But, he said, many will tend to abandon protests.

Shamir: U.S.-Israel relations at risk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday that talks between U.S. officials and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could endanger Israel's close relationship with Washington.

Interviewed on Israel Radio, Shamir said U.S. talks with the PLO, which started Friday after a break of 13 years, were "grave, painful and difficult."

He added: "We always said the United States and Israel are allies, there is an alliance between us and it can happen that there are serious disagreements between allies... but they don't harm the alliance itself."

"This week something happened that puts that principle to a very serious test. The United States decided to enter negotiations with Israel's most extreme enemy... it's no wonder we are all trying to decide what happened, why it happened and what we should do about it," he said.

It was the first statement from the hardline Likud chief since the United States decided Wednesday to change its policy and end a ban on talks with the PLO.

Shamir also appeared to join other politicians from Israel's left and right who are considering introducing their own peace initiatives in the wake of the U.S. move.

Shamir confirmed earlier reports of his plan to announce a new Middle East initiative after the formation of the new government, but declined to elaborate on the proposal.

"Once the government is formed, one of its first steps... will be initiatives that would be-

come known in Israel and the world," he said.

Shamir stressed that the U.S. step made it imperative to set up a broad-based coalition government that can endorse such initiatives.

Shamir's close aide, cabinet minister Moshe Arens, said Saturday that Israel's next government will discuss a unilateral move to grant Palestinians limited "self-rule," as envisioned in the Camp David accord mediated by the United States in 1978.

The Palestinians reject the "self-rule" idea and would settle only for an independent Palestinian state.

But in Israel, the notion may bridge the gap between Shamir's Likud bloc and the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The parties are locked in complex coalition talks since Israel's Nov. 1 general elections. They disagree on peace questions, with Likud opposing "territorial concessions" and Labour favouring a territorial compromise in exchange for peace.

In response to the U.S. decision, Peres and other Labour leaders proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and talks with elected Palestinian representatives as a substitute for the PLO. Palestinian notables in the occupied territories reject moves that would exclude the PLO.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Labour's number two man, echoed Peres by saying Friday Israel should counter the U.S. initiative with its own plan

Bhutto faces controversy

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said Saturday the dissolution of the Baluchistan province assembly this week was a conspiracy against her two-week-old government.

Baluchistan Governor Mohammad Musa dissolved the two-week-old provincial assembly Thursday on the advice of controversial provincial Chief Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali, which he had to follow under the constitution.

The PPP charged that the act of dissolution is a conspiracy against the PPP government to tarnish its image," party spokesman Qazi Abdul Majid Abid said after a meeting of the group.

Political analysts said the dissolution of the 45-seat assembly almost certainly saved Jamali from losing a vote of confidence in the 45-seat assembly.

Bhutto said Musa dissolved the assembly without consulting her but that his action was unconstitutional. She also said she would respect provincial autonomy.

But opposition politicians accused her of conspiring to keep an ally in power in the sparsely-populated province which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

He said a Red Cross team touring the area would recom-

sponding its definition of "terrorism" did not include attacks on military targets inside Israel or the one-year-old civilian uprising in the occupied territories.

The PLO said it felt it was not up to Israel or the United States alone to say who was responsible for future acts of "terrorism."

It said Israel might try attacks on civilians in Europe, for example, to sabotage the PLO-American talks.

The two U.S. negotiators took note of the PLO position and hinted that they accepted it, the PLO official said.

The PLO then raised specifically the killing of PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir in April, less than five kilometres from the site of the meeting, and the killing of four Palestinians in Nablus Friday.

It said these were examples of Israeli state terrorism and asked Washington to clarify its position on such acts.

PLO counters U.S. contentions, seeks American clarifications

TUNIS (Agencies) — The United States put forward three points for discussion — terrorism, direct negotiations and how the dialogue should proceed — at its opening session of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a PLO official said Saturday.

The PLO countered on the first two points and sought clarifications of U.S. policy on these and other questions, the official told Reuters in a detailed briefing on Friday's 90-minute session.

He said U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau opened the talks by saying Washington hoped the PLO would exclude "terrorist" elements and that, whenever "terrorist" attacks took place, it would condemn them.

Pelletreau did not mention any names or incidents, the official said.

The PLO team, led by Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo, responded by

It said these were examples of Israeli state terrorism and asked Washington to clarify its position on such acts.

Red Cross urges end to flow of aid workers, equipment to Armenia

YEREVAN (Agencies) — A Red Cross official urged Western relief groups Saturday to stop sending workers and equipment to earthquake-stricken Armenia as hope diminished of finding survivors.

Soviet media reported fresh instances of inadequate rescue work 10 days after the earthquake which officials say killed 55,000 people and left half a million homeless. More than 40,000 people have been evacuated.

Newspapers also had detailed descriptions of looting and other crime and new warnings were issued about extremists in Armenia's territorial dispute with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

But Reed said relief workers were being overwhelmed by medical equipment. "We have too many doctors and too many kidney machines," he said, adding that some dialysis machines would be redeployed elsewhere in the country.

Another rescue official said two recent planeloads of medical equipment had been surplus to requirements.

Soviet television reported Friday that 21 people had been found alive in the preceding 24 hours in the city of Leninakan and in Spitak, a town of 20,000 obliterated by the tremor.

But non-military officials were being told to leave Spitak and bulldozing was already beginning in areas thoroughly checked for bodies.

Reed said the quake showed an international coordination centre was vital to send aid quickly to any disaster area.

Asked about cooperation with Soviet authorities, he said: "At the top they have been excellent, but we have had problems with the middle management."

Soviet leaders and the press have said the rescue operation was slow, lacked direction and failed to use equipment efficiently.

Television news Friday showed Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai

(Continued on page 2)

Sultan Qaboos sees risk of renewed war

Oman urges GCC ties with Tehran, Moscow

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Sultan Qaboos Ibn Saïd of Oman in remarks published Saturday urged members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to improve ties with the Soviet Union and Iran.



Sultan Qaboos Ibn Saïd

His call to members of the six-member council appeared in the Kuwaiti daily Al Siyassah two days before a GCC summit convenes in Bahrain.

The Omani leader said there was still a risk that fighting between Iran and Iraq could resume and it was important for the sides to move to a state of complete peace.

"Officially the war has ended, and we are happy for this. But until a peace agreement is signed, and Security Council Resolution 598 is implemented, dangers of a renewal of the war remain," he said.

Iran and Iraq ended eight years of fighting in August, but have made little progress since then in implementing U.N. Resolution 598 which also calls for a troop withdrawal and exchange of prisoners.

The GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — generally backed Baghdad in the conflict and relations with Tehran suffered as a result.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran last April, accusing it of hostile acts.

"The important thing is that the peace between Iraq and Iran move from a stage of ceasefire to that of complete peace. As the GCC we must move after this towards relations with Iran in order to lessen tension in the

region," Sultan Qaboos said.

He said relations with Moscow had become necessary for the GCC policies.

"I think diplomatic relations with it (Moscow) and with the rest of the GCC states, must take place because we need this important state... the Soviet Union is today not what it was in past years," he added.

Kuwait established diplomatic relations with Moscow in the 1960s. Oman and the United Arab Emirates followed in 1985 and Qatar this year. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have yet to do so.

Sultan Qaboos' suggestion for the normalisation of relations followed a recent meeting he had

with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia. The GCC leaders are meeting Monday in Bahrain for their annual summit, whose agenda includes consideration of steps to assist the Iran-Iraq peace process.

He said Oman maintained relations with Iran and made an effort not to enter into a confrontation with it during the conflict "believing that by maintaining good relations we could contribute toward stopping the war."

"We succeeded," he added.

He added that an Iraqi envoy was in Muscat recently with a message from Baghdad to dispel rumours that Iraq might become a threat to the countries in the region.

"I consider this reply dispels all such fears," the sultan said.

"We do not harbour any fears now and believe Iraq's victory is our victory." Iraq's strength "is the strength of the entire Arab World," he added.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa was quoted as saying that the GCC's future dealings with Iran "will be on a collective and not a bilateral basis."

"We want to have the best relations with Iran," he added in an interview with the UAE daily Al Khaleej.

"We do not have special demands, nor are we interested in imposing conditions for cooperation with Iran," he said.

"Our aim is to clear the air and remove all obstacles and the causes of the bad developments of the recent past," Sheikh Mohammad said.



FIGHTING BACK — A Palestinian woman grabs the truncheon of a charging Israeli policeman during a demonstration in occupied Jerusalem earlier this week as in the one-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the Holy City, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Sweden mediated release of ICRC delegate in Lebanon

BERNE (Agencies) — Sweden mediated in bringing about the release of Swiss hostage Peter Winkler, freed Friday night after four weeks' captivity in Lebanon, Swiss Foreign Minister René Felber said Saturday.

Felber told a news conference that the Swedish ambassador in Damascus worked for the release of Winkler, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Switzerland did not give in to any of the conditions of his kidnappers, he said.

Febler said Winkler was to fly home Sunday aboard a Zurich-bound Cyprus Airlines jetliner.

Asked in Beirut about Winkler's plans after his release, ICRC spokeswoman Francoise Derron told the AP: "All I can say now is that (Winkler) is still with the Swiss ambassador and on his way to Switzerland." She refused to elaborate.

Winkler, 32, was kidnapped Nov. 17 near the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh by gunmen loyal to the radical Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

The precise role of the Swedish ambassador since that time and what demands the kidnappers might have made were not immediately clear.

But Palestinian and Lebanese security sources in Beirut said Winkler was later handed over to radicals demanding the release of Lebanese Mohammad Hussein Hariri.

Hariri is being held in prison in Switzerland charged with hijacking an Air Afrique plane last year on a flight from Rome to Paris and forcing it to land in Geneva.

His trial was scheduled for November but was postponed until February to allow psychiatrists to examine him further.

"The ICRC would like to

thank in particular the Swiss authorities and the Swedish ambassador to Damascus, who played an essential role in his release," it said in a statement.

The successful outcome can only facilitate the humanitarian mission of the ICRC in Lebanon.

A spokeswoman said the ICRC hoped to resume operations in Sidon — halted after Winkler's kidnapping — but it would seek assurances that its delegates can again work in safety.

"It is very, very important that we get a guarantee to be able to work freely and safely. This same incident must not happen again," she said.

Sweden, respected by most parties in the Middle East as a disinterested mediator, has played an increasingly active diplomatic role in the area in the past year.

Amal rescues 3 Irish troopers

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — The mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia Saturday rescued three Irish soldiers serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon after a day in the hands of pro-Iranian fighters, police said.

A police spokesman said Amal also captured about 100 members of the Faithful Resistance, the fanatic faction which was behind the abduction Friday of the three Irish soldiers.

He said the three were rescued from a house in the village of Sultaniyah, 1.6 kilometres southwest of Tibnin, the headquarters of the 620-strong Irish battalion serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said Amal returned the three to their command at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT).

"They are in good shape and back with their unit in Tibnin," Goksel told the AP by telephone.

Tibnin, from which the three

were snatched Friday, is 25 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

The rescue operation, according to the police spokesman, was completed at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) when 15 Faithful Resistance guerrillas surrendered to Amal and set free the three Irish soldiers.

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fighters surrendered because they didn't know what to do after Amal arrested their commanders. They surrendered peacefully, the spokesman said.

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National News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 1988 3

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RELATIONS WITH EGYPT: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dhuan Hindawi Saturday discussed with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Muhab Mugbil bilateral relations. He also received Chilean Ambassador in Amman Carlos Derpsch Bartsch at the conclusion of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

JORDAN RECEIVES EGYPTIAN ENVOY: Interior Minister Zaid Dajani Saturday discussed with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Muhab Mugbil bilateral cooperation.

AMZEH VISITS MA'AN CENTRES: Health Minister Zaid Anzeh Saturday paid inspection tour of Ma'an Governorate health centres. The tour took the minister to centres in Ma'an and neighbouring Rajef and Dalah districts where he talked to the doctors and staff and learnt about their needs for improving the centres' operations. (Petra)

INSPECTION OF VEHICLES: Public Security Department sources Saturday launched an inspection campaign on vehicles' road worthiness. The sources urged the drivers to fix any fault in their vehicles particularly those related to the lighting system, windscreen wipers, and tyres. The sources said that the violators will be fined. (Petra)

D 400,000 LOAN TO ZARQA: The Cities and Villages Development Bank has approved of a JD 400,000 loan to Zarqa Municipality to carry out a number of public utility projects in the city. The loan will be spent on building pavements, asphalt roads, an annex to the existing market place and a terminal. (Petra)

COURT FINES TWO: The military court has sentenced Salem Said Hussein to pay a fine of JD 150 and Mohammad Ahmad Assad to pay JD 130 or the imprisonment of 240 days for violating Ministry Supply regulations. The sentence was Saturday endorsed by the military governor. (Petra)

AGRICULTURAL SEMINARS: Two agricultural seminars were held Saturday at Tawabin Al Udwani and Kamsheh districts to oriental farmers on the agricultural cropping patterns system introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture and combating pests. Specialists from the ministry and the Zarqa Government Community College attended the seminars. (Petra)

New prices announced for imported cigarettes

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Abdul Salam Kanaan has issued a decision defining the prices of foreign cigarettes imported by the Supply Ministry effective Saturday as follows:

Type	Price/packet
Darboro and Rothmans International	680 fils
Rothmans King Size, Dunhill International, and Cartier	640 fils
Soldano	530 fils
Dunhill Superlight, Barkley, and Winston Kent, Silk Cut and Carlton	620 fils
Tenson and Hedges	610 fils
Viking	580 fils
The decision also bans sale or circulation of foreign cigarettes unless labelled "Imported Specifically for Supply Ministry" and unless sold at centres licensed by the Ministry of Supply in accordance with the conditions set by the ministry.	580 fils

The decision also bans sale or circulation of foreign cigarettes unless labelled "Imported Specifically for Supply Ministry" and unless sold at centres licensed by the Ministry of Supply in accordance with the conditions set by the ministry.

1-day meeting discusses informational policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting opened here Saturday to assess implementation of recommendations by an international governmental conference on informational policies held in Kharab last year.

Kazem, UNESCO's representative in Amman, who appealed to Arab states to cooperate with UNESCO to set up a new international information order and contribute to its success.

Kazem quoted figures which show that the distribution of newspapers in Arab countries was in 1984 at the rate of 33 for every 1,000 citizens compared to 319 for every person in the advanced nations.

As to broadcasting stations, he said, they became 450 in 1983 in the Arab World up from 250 in 1975, compared to 19,100 stations in advanced nations in 1975 growing to 21,640 in 1983.

The two-day meeting organised by UNESCO will discuss also the effect of information media on cultural development, regional cooperation in information and communication media, and research in information fields.

The meeting being held at the Arab Thought Forum, group of prominent personalities involved in the information and communication media in the Arab and Islamic Worlds and representatives of various international organisations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed items and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.

An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.

The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

An exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Iraqi artist Nuba Al Radi at Alia Gallery Hall.

An exhibition of His Majesty King Hussein's photos marking his 53rd birthday besides exhibiting books showing developments in the Kingdom under King Hussein, at Deir Abu Sa'id. Jordanian fine arts exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

An exhibition displaying Wols' (Otto Wolfgang Schultze) photographic works at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

An exhibition on Lord Byron, the English poet, surveying his life and work, at the British Council.

THEATRE

Arabic play for children entitled "Al Kinz" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

Children's play "Gingerbread Man" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

A German film entitled "Merchant of the Four Seasons" at the Yarmouk University.

A feature film entitled "An American" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Prince Mohammad, Prince Ghazi visit PSD

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday called at the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, and was briefed on measures taken for the development of the department's general operations. Prince Mohammad was accompanied on the visit by his son Prince Ghazi (Petra photo).

Week-long road safety campaign begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long campaign to spread awareness among the public on road safety during the wet season was launched Saturday by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents in cooperation

with the Public Security Department (PSD).

The campaign entails warnings to motorists on careful driving during the winter season through posters, publications and leaflets.

The campaign is being carried out with the help of students from schools, community colleges and universities, and is deemed necessary in view of the increase in the number of road accidents during winter.

Meteorology Department completes building of new national centre

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology announced Saturday the completion of a building that would serve as a National Meteorological Centre and that operations will begin early next year.

Department Director Ali Abanda said that the new centre will be capable of providing weather forecasts accurately and for at least a whole week in advance.

Electronic devises have already been installed and routed to specialised weather channels linked to satellites that give accurate and speedy information about the weather conditions, Abanda said.

He said once the centre has been opened it will be possible to get maps on the weather conditions from various meteorological stations around the world.

The centre cost nearly JD 500,000 of which nearly \$200,000 came in the form of equipment and machines from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), according to Abanda.

He said that the WMO also provided the centre with a

\$200,000 radar system which can discover storms and clouds in any part of Jordan, working within a 200-kilometre radius and that WMO specialists will be stationed at the centre to supervise its operations and train the local staff.

Abanda said staff and specialists from his department have been trained in such operations prior to the opening of the centre which is to be linked with a central meteorological station in Offenbach, West Germany.

He said that the annual cost of employing a direct satellite channel linking Jordan with the West German centre is nearly JD 50,000.

Announcement about the projected centre first came from Abanda in October last year when he said that agreement was reached during the WMO director general's visit to Jordan and talks on the scheme.

The WMO, which started activities and was recognised as a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1951, aims to improve the global exchange of weather

information.

The Department of Meteorology in Amman has also embarked on another project for seeding clouds in accordance with an agreement signed last October. It provides for an American firm specialising in weather modification to increase the amounts of rain in the Kingdom, through a special aircraft flying above the clouds and sending up the chemicals through 28 different ground stations towards the clouds to introduce precipitation.

According to Abanda the national centre is located at Marka north east of Amman.

Hmoud inspects affected regions

One of three locust swarms wiped out

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of three swarms of desert locusts that invaded Jordan over the past three days has been wiped out and specialised teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, working in cooperation with other government departments and the Jordanian Armed Forces, are involved in fighting the remaining two swarms, according to Ministry of Agriculture officials.

tions.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Saleh Al Lawzi said that the swarms of desert locusts that invaded Sal Al Asmar, a desert area of 400 kilometres away from Amman through Al Mudawwar region covering a space of 12 square kilometres and that the ground teams assisted by air operations are dealing with the pest.

The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday announced the creation of a special operations room to coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned authorities in the fight against the pest.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud said Thursday that the invasion posed no serious danger but was useful training for larger locust invasions anticipated in the coming spring.

The minister, who Saturday flew by helicopter on an inspection tour of the affected regions, told a press conference Thursday that efforts to fight the locusts started immediately after the invasion started. Nearly 20 teams have been preparing themselves for the task over the past two months, when reports were first received about locust invasions of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Hmoud said that Al Jaffer airport has been equipped for use as a base for pesticide spraying aircraft and that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other international organisations, in addition to Saudi Arabia, have been contacted in order to coordinate anti-locust opera-

Belonging to the family of the grasshopper, locusts are considered the most dangerous plant pests of international nature. They have a rapid multiplication, great mobility and tremendous power of migration, ferocious eating habits and ability to change colour and shape in response to population density.

The adult male has a body length of 60 to 74 millimetres while the female has a body length reaching 90 millimetres. A swarm covering an area of one square kilometre might contain 40 million locusts which eat up to 120 tonnes of plantation.

Larger swarms could eat an area of 100 square kilometres, and according to specialists, each insect lays an average of 350 eggs during its life span.

Locusts fly at an altitude of 500 metres above the ground, crossing into borders at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour with an average of 2,000 to 5,000 kilometres a day non-stop.

Jordan's last serious locust invasion was in 1958 when the insects devastated crops in the Jordan Valley.



JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 381



Drawing of: Dec. 17, 1988

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 47559 Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. 45829 Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. 76326 Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. 28963 Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. 42771 Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. 38319 Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. 36133 Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. 40325 Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 100

47550 47569 47659 48559 57559

47558 47549 47459 46559 37559

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60

45820 45839 45929 46829 55829

45828 45819 45729 44829 35829

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30

76327 76336 76426 77326 06326

76325 76316 76226 75326 66326

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20

28964 28973 28063 29963 38963

28962 28953 28863 27963 18963

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15

42772 42781 42871 43771 52771

42770 42761 42671 41771 32771

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10

38310 38329 38419 39319 48319

38318 38309 38219 37319 28319

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 80

36134 36143 36233 37133 46133

36132 36123 36033 35133 73133

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 70

40326 40335 40425 41325 50325

40324 40315 40225 49325 30325

Ticket numbers 68807 33656 49356 18933

win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers 62006 61340 27116

win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

6827 9537 5307 3449 1488 Win JD 2

Jordan Times

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Peace picks momentum

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has foresightedly projected upon his return from his official visit to France and working visit to Egypt that efforts would soon be launched for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. Last week in an interview with Kuwaiti Al Siyassah daily newspaper, the King expressed optimism that next spring would witness a tangible movement in the peace process. The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted last Thursday for convening such a conference. Meanwhile both the Soviet Union and France are calling for a meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council to prepare the ground work for the international conference. All in all the momentum for holding such a conference after the new Bush administration assumes power in Washington is certainly picking up and would seem probable now that by next spring such a conference would be held.

The Israeli establishment would most likely fight tooth and nail this momentum for peace in the Middle East. However, the tidal wave for peace in the region is getting so forceful that it is unlikely that the Israeli government would succeed in derailing it now. With the U.S. decision to respond favourably to the recent PLO peace overtures and the whole international community standing solidly behind the real breakthrough in the quest for peace in the Middle East, the momentum for peace appears now to be unstoppable.

What lends support to optimism is the proposition that the Jewish community is now divided about how to react to the new Palestinian offers for peace on the terms long advocated and insisted upon by Israel and the U.S. The meeting between Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S. Jewish leaders in Stockholm last week has demonstrated that there is a deep crack in the Jewish and Israeli postures on the PLO's offers for peace. The Stockholm rendezvous, which was brokered by the Swedish government, has ushered the beginning of a new phase in the peace process. If this cleavage within the Jewish and Israeli communities could develop in favour of the anticipated Arab-Israeli dialogue and negotiations within the framework of an international peace conference, the projection in support of convening an international conference will prove to be true and well based.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

SINCE the moment Washington announced that it was opening a dialogue with the PLO, developments in the Middle East region moved fast, calling for preparedness and unity on the part of the Arabs and speedy action on the part of the world community. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said in an editorial, Saturday. The paper referred in particular to Israel's escalation of repressive actions in the occupied territories which Friday led to the death of five Arab youths and the injury of 150 others, and said the new crime was committed as the PLO and the U.S. were embarking on a dialogue that could pave the way for a lasting settlement. Not only was Israel displaying its desire to stifle the resistance by force, but its Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was also announcing plans to hold elections in the occupied lands in a bid to find a substitute leadership for the Palestinians who can talk separately with Israel and so avoid the proposed international peace conference, the paper noted.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily cast doubts on U.S. intentions, describing the announcement about a dialogue with the PLO as a tactical move. Tareq Masarweh says that as long as the Americans are holding on to the idea that the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be determined in the coming negotiations, it means that it does not approve of the Palestinians having the right to determine their own future and that all parties to the conflict will decide on their future. We have to examine Washington's words very carefully since we do not believe that the Americans want to free themselves from the influence of their Israeli allies, the writer cautions. He says that the U.S. could back Israel's idea of elections in the occupied Arab land and, therefore, the Palestinians should be vigilant and ready to carry on the uprising and maintain their unity of ranks if they wish to attain their national goals.

Al Dustour daily said that the U.S. announcement about a dialogue with the PLO has been widely welcomed in the Arab World. If this dialogue is serious and continuous, with diligence and perseverance, then it might lead to the convening of an international conference that would lay the foundation for a just and lasting peace, said the paper. The Americans should realise, as King Hussein has said, that the Arabs are united behind their Palestinian brothers, extending to them all support for their endeavours to regain freedom, and that the Arab states back the efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to help achieve that goal, the paper continued. King Hussein said in an interview with the CBS television network that he was deeply satisfied with the American announcement to have a dialogue with the PLO because it paves the way for a solution of a chronic issue that endangered world peace. The King's satisfaction, the paper noted, stems from the fact that Jordan along with Egypt have paved the way for the American step through their relentless efforts which have now been crowned with success.

Sawt Al Shaab for its part dwelt on the King's interview with the CBS network as throwing more light on the Palestine question and the need for the Americans to realise that the Palestinians are oriented towards peace based on justice. The King said that the Arab World as a whole supports the Palestinians and their stance in their quest for peace through an international peace conference, and therefore Washington should respond favourably and pursue the dialogue with the representatives of the Palestinian people until justice is re-established, the paper noted. It said that Jordan's efforts in support of the Palestinian people should be interpreted in the light of the brotherly links between Jordan and Palestine and the long joint endeavours to restore the rights of the people of Palestine in their homeland.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic challenges: past, present, future

ONE of the most prominent features of the Jordanian economy is its flexibility, and its ability to be moved, changed, and reconstructed in response to official decisions, measures, policies and related private expectations.

Flexibility is of course an advantage, but it places more responsibility on the shoulders of the administration of the national economy. Those in charge could not afford to wait until the crisis happen, problems grow, and fires erupt in one economic sector or another. The leadership or management is required to be far-sighted, able to foresee the future, to read the indicators and clues, and act ahead of time before the crisis and problems that ensue grow out of control.

The past financial abundance allowed a lot of negligence, and over optimism, future expectations were too high to warrant any worry about the present. However, the current financial crunch must change our perceptions towards the style of management of the national economy and public finance. In a way these affairs should be run, from now on, like a business. A private business would not allow looseness in getting all its rights, or relaxation in waste and rising costs.

The number one economic and social challenge that Jordan faced in the last six years was the challenge of unemployment. No

doubt, unemployment caused worry and attracted attention, but unfortunately no practical plan was ever formulated to deal with this challenge, and no definite measures, policies or options were brought forward or implemented to deal with the roots of the problem and the continued generation of more unemployment at the rate of 2.5 per cent a year since 1982.

The latest challenge was the monetary crisis. The current overriding goal is of course the restoration of stability at the present realistic exchange rate, which has been holding for three weeks so far, and can be a basis for a new born certainty. Certainty is needed to have private investments resume without further delay.

The coming challenge is to bring the central government's budget deficit under control, and face up to the heavy burden of the external debt service and overcome the balance of payments difficulties. This challenge calls for urgent planning and calculations.

Priority of course should be afforded to overall security and stability. However, it is equally important that the adjustment process be accompanied by a measure of real growth in production and national exports.

Real economic growth in the private sector is needed to

alleviate unemployment, create jobs, secure higher domestic revenues for the treasury, reduce the deficit in the balance of payments, and for the augmentation of the capacity of the country to service its external debt. Economic growth should remain dependent on resources borrowed by the public sector. The private sector should finally take up its role as the new engine for growth and investments, after the outlook has been cleared to a certain extent.

We need a completely new development strategy, to help Jordan open up to the Arab region and the world at large. To make our exports of goods and services more competitive and able to penetrate new markets. To make the private sector more dynamic and aggressive, and to have the government provide the incentives, atmosphere and suitable conditions.

The recent developmental meetings, sponsored and led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan do help in starting a serious national dialogue around the future tasks of the coming stage. The free dialogue is needed to evaluate the past directions, and forge new ones for the immediate future.

We have to overcome the difficulties, and continue the march on new basis, with wider participation. There is no more place for mismanagement and negligence.

On Friday in Tunis, the U.S. government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation had the first contact after a break of 13 years. The following two articles shed light on behind-the-scenes diplomacy that led to the breakthrough

U.S.-PLO dialogue boosting peace prospects

By Christopher Hanson

Reuter

WASHINGTON — By opening a dialogue with the PLO, Washington has returned to centre stage in the Middle East peace process and may ultimately help pave the way for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Middle East experts say.

They say Washington's historic move has boosted the standing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and increased pressure on Israel to be more conciliatory, even though a big shift by the Jewish state may be a long way off.

"This is a small step on what's going to be a very long... and rocky road to peace in the Middle East. But we think this is an important step that will advance the cause," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told reporters.

The United States has been pressing for a solution under which Israel would exchange lands occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war for security guarantees.

Middle East expert Joseph Sisco, a former assistant secretary of state for the Near East, told Reuters: "the most important thing is that (the decision) restores the centrality of the United States in the peace process."

Washington had played a central Middle East role in the 1960s and 70s, culminating in the 1978 Camp David Israel-Egypt peace accords. But under President Reagan, America had paid less attention to what seemed an intractable conflict.

Reagan announced Wednesday that the PLO had met its three criteria to resume a dialogue: PLO Chair-

man Yasser Arafat had renounced terrorism, explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist and endorsed U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 urging respect for the territorial integrity of all nations in the area.

Among other things, Washington could seek even stronger assurances that the PLO leadership would not back "terrorist" actions against Israel.

The very word indicates the scale of the problem. Israel labels terrorist virtually anyone that opposes it by violent means — from aeroplane hijackers to a youth who throws a stone to protest at the military occupation of the West Bank. But Israel's "terrorists" often are the landless Palestinians' freedom fighters — and the rest of the world's views fall somewhere in between.

Another key issue in the talks could be the Arab uprising on the West Bank, which Sisco said the PLO must hold in check if the peace process is to move ahead.

He said peace prospects would also be enhanced if Arab governments would state explicitly and often that they were willing to coexist with Israel.

With Washington talking with the PLO and maintaining close ties with Israel, the United States could ultimately bring the two sides to the negotiating table, according to Sisco.

"We can be the broker, carefully prodding, making suggestions," he said.

In the 13 years it had ruled out direct contacts with the PLO, branding it terrorist, Washington was hard-pressed to play the broker role effectively between

Israel and the Palestinian people. Now communication will be easier.

"The demonisation of the PLO as the incarnation of terror and evil will subside and the PLO will be seen more as a normal political actor," said Middle East specialist William Quandt of the private Brookings Institution.

Analysts said Washington's move had isolated Israel, which expressed dismay at the decision and repeated its vow never to negotiate with the PLO, even as many countries warmly praised the U.S. decision.

Sisco said it was important now for Washington to reassure Israel that it was still a firm friend so that it could play a mediating role in the years ahead. U.S. leaders have tried vigorously to do so.

"We have made it very clear that we have not retreated one

inch from the position of guaranteeing the safety of Israel," President Reagan told reporters Thursday.

Reagan said if the PLO failed to match its conciliatory words with performance, "we're back where we started."

Secret meetings led to U.S. decision

By G.G. Labelle

The Associated Press

GENEVA — For Stein Andersson, the announcement on the television in a Geneva hotel suite brought an end to months of secret meetings, contacts with Arabs and Jews, and quibbling over words in two languages.

Andersson, Sweden's foreign minister, guided the diplomacy leading to the United States' agreement to talk to the PLO, and he smiled broadly as he heard U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz make the announcement.

The Swedish effort to bring together the United States and the PLO began during a Middle East trip last March when Andersson saw firsthand the Palestinian uprising against Israel's 21-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"They worked very hard until we achieved this result," he said just after Shultz's announcement.

Andersson explained his steps in the peace process to a small group of reporters early Thursday morning and, later, to a crowded news conference.

He told the news conference he made contact with U.S. Jews and Israelis because he did not want the Israeli government to know about the effort in advance.

"The most crucial event was

vowed earlier by Palestinian leaders.

Then began contacts with other diplomats, Egyptians, Saudi Arabs and envoys from several European nations were involved. Andersson said he had talks with Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and hinted he had contacts with Shultz.

Andersson, 64, tried to play down Sweden's role Thursday. He said his country was only "a postman," delivering messages, but he added: "I confess we have written some of the letters, too."

Eugene Makhlouf, the PLO delegate to Stockholm, insisted the Swedes did the bulk of the diplomatic manoeuvring.

"They worked very hard until we achieved this result," he said just after Shultz's announcement.

Andersson explained his steps in the peace process to a small group of reporters early Thursday morning and, later, to a crowded news conference.

He told the news conference he made contact with U.S. Jews and Israelis because he did not want the Israeli government to know about the effort in advance.

"The most crucial event was

the meeting with the Jewish personalities from the United States," he said. "This was with Khalid Al Hassan (of the PLO) a fortnight before Arafat came to Stockholm."

The U.S. Jewish delegation at that secret meeting was led by Rita Hauser. Al Hassan is a leading figure in the PLO and a longtime colleague of Arafat.

Andersson said that after the meeting he wrote a document expressing the agreements that came out of the session and both sides agreed to sign it.

But it wasn't until Arafat visited Stockholm last week to meet with Hauser and other U.S. Jews that the document was made public.

Andersson's manoeuvring ended Wednesday afternoon with last-minute arguments over which words in English and Arabic would be agreeable to the United States in Arafat's announcement that he accepted Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

The U.S. statement later Wednesday came as a surprise to many. Only a day earlier, U.S. officials said a speech by Arafat did not meet their conditions.

Arafat's statement Wednesday at a news conference and his speech Tuesday seemed much the same.

But Andersson said what was different was that the news conference, in English, cleared up questions of language that had

'We seek a different road'

The following are excerpts from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's address early this month to the U.N. General Assembly Session in New York

THE WORLD in which we live today is radically different from what it was at the beginning or even in the middle of this century. And it continues to change...

TODAY the preservation of any kind of "closed" society is hardly possible... The world economy is becoming a single organism, and no state, whatever its social system or economic status, can normally develop outside it.

THE greatest philosophers sought to grasp the laws of social development and find an answer to the main question: How to make man's life happy, just and safe. The French Revolution of 1789 and the Russian Revolution of 1917 exerted a powerful impact on the very nature of history and radically changed the course of world development... To a large extent, those two revolutions shaped the way of thinking that is still prevalent in social consciousness. But today we face a different world, for which we must seek a different road to the future.

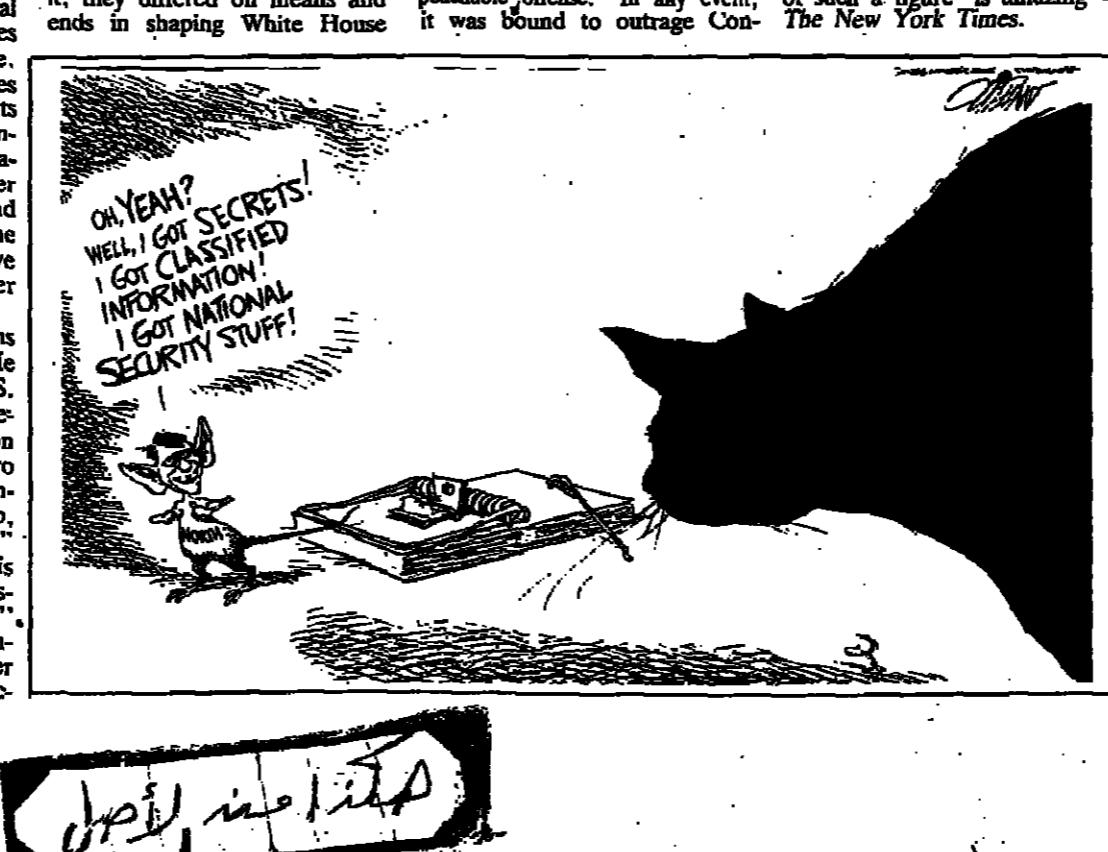
THE formula of development "at the expense of others" is on the way out. In the light of existing realities, no genuine progress is possible at the expense of the rights and freedoms of individuals and nations, or at the expense of nature.

THE use or threat of force no longer can or must be an instrument of foreign policy... All of us, and primarily the stronger of us, must exercise self-restraint and totally rule out any outward-oriented use of force... It is now quite clear that building up military power makes a country omnipotent. What is more, one-sided reliance on military power ultimately weakens other components of national security.

It is also quite clear to us that the principle of freedom of choice is mandatory. Its nonrecognition is fraught with extremely grave consequences for world peace. Denying that right to the peoples under whatever pretext or rhetorical guise means jeopardising even the fragile balance that has been attained. Freedom of choice is a universal principle that should allow for no exceptions... As the world asserts its diversity, attempts to look down on others and to teach them one's own brand of democracy become totally improper, to say nothing of the fact that democratic values intended for export often very quickly lose their worth.

What we are talking about, therefore, is unity in diversity... We are not abandoning our convictions, our philosophy or traditions, nor do we urge anyone to abandon theirs. But neither do we have any intention to be hemmed in by our values. That would result in intellectual impoverishment, for it would mean rejecting a powerful source of development — the exchange of everything original that each nation has independently created.

WE are, of course, far from claiming to be in possession of the ultimate truth.



DECEMBER 18, 1988

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 1988 5

Children from a different world

By Mariam Shahin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — They are abandoned, discarded, neglected, sometimes handicapped, and nearly always unwanted children. The Al Hussein Social Institution houses, nourishes and cares for these little abandoned souls, which number anywhere from 120 to 130 at any one time. Al Hussein Social Institution was formed in 1972, through a merger of three separate homes for "orphaned" or abandoned children.

Originally the children were placed in separate "homes" or institutions, according to age and gender. The Al Hussein Institution currently houses boys until the age of six and girls till the age of ten, after which they are housed in other government institutions.

Aims

"Government institutions such as this one are aimed primarily to provide social services to children who have no one to take care of them. Most of our children, however, are not orphans," explains Salwa Noordin, director of the home. Of the approximately 130 children housed in the institution, more than 100 have at least one acknowledged parent.

The reasons for which the Department of Social Services decide, (in agreement with the families of the children concerned), that the children would receive better care at the institution vary, according to Zahira Husseini, head of the Children Welfare Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs, ranging from mental illness to the imprisonment of parents. The department plays an instrumental role in the placement of the children.

Although the child's susceptibility is limitless in these crucial formative years, the institution's ability to help them cope has its limits. "We aim to give our children

the best possible care with the means we have," Noordin says. "Some of the children are here for a short time, others stay here for six or ten years, thus what we can actually achieve in the given time may be limited by factors beyond our control."

Foster home

There is a controversy in the minds of some people as to whether the Al Hussein Social Institution is an orphanage or not; it is not. If anything it may be called a foster home. There is an essential difference between an orphanage and a foster home. By definition an adoption home is an institution from which children can be adopted. Although adoption was once allowed in Jordan, a ruling by the Higher Islamic Court in 1975 interpreted that adoption is not allowed in Islam. This adoption is considered illegal in Jordan. To foster is to take care of a child as an adoptive parent would, but the child does not receive the name of this parent nor is he/she entitled to inherit from the foster parent(s).

Homeless children

The children who end up at the Al Hussein Social Institution live there for a variety of different reasons. Some are abandoned. They may be found in the street or at the doors of government institutions, or on the doorsteps of the foster home itself. Social workers at the Ministry of Social Affairs conduct study of the child's background to ascertain whether the child is orphaned or abandoned, lost or even kidnapped. The ministry follows the recommendations of the study and subsequently places the child in the foster home, if that is the advised action.

The majority of the children at the home do not fall into this category however. Many of our children come from broken homes, where the remaining parent is not capable of caring for

the child financially, emotionally and sometimes physically," Noordin points out.

Children whose parents are imprisoned or being treated in mental institutions are also often placed in the home at the recommendation of the social workers.

"Prisons or mental institutions are no place for a child to grow up in. It would be counterproductive for the child and society as a whole if the innocent were to be locked up," Noordin explains.

Children with mentally handicapped parents may be placed at the home if they can medically verify that because of their illness the parents are not capable of caring for their children and an extended family does not exist or is not willing/capable of caring for the child.

Noordin points out that many people who get divorced and remarry often want to send their children from their 1st marriage to the home feeling that it is more comfortable to keep them there than have them live with the new step parent. "We get very upset when these things happen because we feel that some people just don't care enough about their children, and that we as an institution are being taken for granted."

"But we are doing everything we can to fight the attitude of it is not convenient for me to raise my children. I'll just give them to the foster home to raise."

Noordin mentioned however, that these cases are not frequent.

When institutionalised parents are released, the ministry reassesses the situation and decides if a child can be returned to the natural parents.

"A child is returned to its natural mother provided that she is married, and thus can provide a socially respectable home for her child."

Noordin says.

According to Husseini, "each case is studied on its own merits and each social worker makes his/her independent recommendations according to which the ministry then acts."

When parents come to claim their children after a period of absence they must present a birth certificate, marriage certificate and medical records, in order to verify to the institution that they are physically, mentally and "socially" fit to take care of their children.

Child protection

In an interview with the Jordan Times Husseini of the Ministry of Social Development said that unlike the case in many countries a child may be placed in a foster home as a result of complaints by neighbours or relatives about a child's maltreatment at the hands of parents. Husseini explains that this is "not the case in Jordan, we need to have the agreement of the parents if we want to put their child in the home. Otherwise, as a government institution, we are

not authorised to take children away from their parents whatever the circumstances."

Foster status

Children's awareness about their status as foster children in a society that is as family oriented as Jordan needs special attention, Husseini says.

"The children that grow up in foster homes have to have very strong personalities in order to survive the kind of social discrimination that they will face once they go out into the real world. There is no doubt about that."

Although almost all of the children attend government schools, (unless they are physically or mentally handicapped), they never lead the "normal family" lives that their other classmates do. It is a difficult problem to tackle. "What helps a lot," says Noordin, "is that there are a few dedicated women who come in once or twice a week to play and communicate with the children. These ladies are loved and the children look forward to their visits because they play with them, cuddle them, and simply give them the affection that any person would give to his/her child; something the staff nannies don't always have the time to do."

"She points out that "children crave, they actually beg, for affection and if this need is not met, then later on in their adult life they will not be able to give to others what they had never received." She notes that "almost all of these ladies that give their time and affection are non-Arab women residing in Amman".

Male role

What about the role men play in the upbringing of children in the foster home?

"As in most foster homes and orphanages everywhere in the world most if not all employees are women," says Noordin. "In the case of our institution, all the nannies, nurses and other employees are females. Except for the doctors that come to see the children on a regular basis, the children do not have contact with anyone that could possibly be considered a father figure."

Adulthood

Asked about the social discrimination the children face once they reach adulthood, Husseini notes that "it depends on the strength of the child's personality and ambition. We try to give each child the maximum chance of making it. Depending on his or her interest and academic performance we arrange funding for entry into community colleges and in some cases to the university. Many of our girls get married once they finish school. Some of the girls are hired by the ministry to work to help others, where other boys and girls manage to



Loneliness and need may result in emotionally deprived adults
is they have no acknowledged family. They can legally be fostered by a family or by an institution such as the S.O.S. Children's Village. If they are fostered by a family, the ministry scrutinises the potential foster family carefully, according to Zahira Husseini.

"A special social service unit researches into the background of the family to gather all the facts about fostering couple. They must be married, certify that they cannot have natural children of their own, be members of the Muslim faith, be in a child bearing age, must not be afflicted with any serious diseases and must be financially capable of giving the child an adequate upbringing."

But what is an adequate upbringing? Almost everybody agrees that a foster home is certainly better than growing up on the streets, as millions of children in cities such as Bombay or Rio de Janeiro do. However, the fact remains that no society can afford to relax and take for granted that things are being taken care of. "Society's obligation to itself never ends", says a volunteer who visits the foster home frequently.



All children have the right to the basics

Trying to explain hunger?

Aid workers say Sudan famine is over—the vulnerable are dead

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuter

KHARTOUM — The 1988 famine in south Sudan has ended. The vulnerable are all dead.

Thousands of shallow graves have taken the places of the sick and dying who only a few months ago haunted the desolate countryside.

"Whoever was vulnerable has died," said Cole Dodge, the Sudan representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The true figure of how many died in what has been described as the world's most modern-day tragedy may never be known, but thousands perished from starvation, disease and malnutrition, often exacerbated by civil war.

"Those who needed help are gone," said Christopher Carr, head of French charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Sudan, speaking about an MSF-run refugee camp in the south Kordofan town of Al Meiram where nearly 4,000 people died this year.

Relief officials who visited the town of Aweil in Bahr Al Ghazal region in late November said nearly 8,000 people died of hunger there between June and September this year.

Foreign relief officials say the government, the army, Arab militias, southern politicians, rebels and, surprisingly, the United Nations and donor countries are high on the list of culprits who contributed to the tragedy.

Collective crime

"It is a collective crime that was made perfect by what amounts to a cover-up in which everyone participated," said the head of a major foreign relief agency in Khartoum.

There is little doubt that five-year-old civil war between government troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the mainly atheist and Christian south was a prime cause of the mass loss of life.

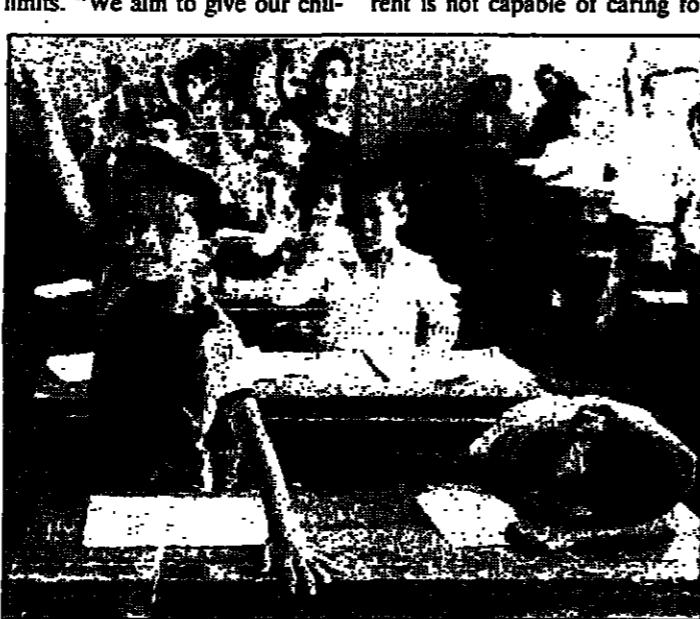
Fighting disrupted the subsistence agriculture of the south, whose estimated six million people are mainly cattle herdsmen, forcing more than half of them to flee their homes in search of food and security.

Thousands died in the desperate search for food — from hunger, disease or at the hands of Arab and southern militiamen said to be enjoying tacit government support to keep the SPLA at bay.

Too late

And constant reports speak of militiamen and the mostly undisciplined SPLA guerrillas systematically looting villages, stealing cattle and abducting women and children.

In December, the International Committee of the Red Cross



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Soviet Union to devalue rouble by 50%, loosen controls on investments

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government has decided to devalue the rouble by 50 per cent on some trade deals in 1990, and to allow Western capitalist companies to operate almost independently on Soviet soil, Soviet media have reported.

The rouble appears to be set for a slide from \$1.60 to 80 cents, dramatically cutting the price of Soviet goods to foreign buyers.

It is the first concrete step toward reducing the rouble's extreme over-valuation under Soviet-set exchange rates. The black market rate for the rouble is 20 to 25 cents.

"A lot of people have become very excited," said a Western diplomat who declined to be named. But he warned that the communist nation reputedly has 3,000 different exchange rates, depending on the product and the partner, and the Soviets have not said which will experience the full 50 per cent drop.

The devaluation will affect only foreign trade, not tourists and Soviet citizens, he said.

The changes are designed to encourage foreign firms to build factories that will ease the Soviet Union's extreme shortage of consumer goods and medical supplies, according to a policy statement from the Council of Ministers published in several economic journals in the past few days.

A spokesman for the Council of Ministers declined to clarify the statement, but promised a news conference with Deputy Premier Vladimir Kamentsev at a

later date.

The devaluation is set for Jan. 1, 1990, the newspaper Socialistic Industria, or socialist industry, has reported. Western economists said they were baffled by the year-long delay, noting that it throws current trade negotiations into chaos, as foreigners would gain by waiting for the more favourable exchange rates.

The newspaper termed the devaluation an interim step toward a completely new set of exchange rates to be installed Jan. 1, 1991.

The Western economists, who declined to be identified, said that timetable fits with Soviet plans to completely revamp wholesale prices, which now are set by bureaucrats and have no relation to costs. Retail price reform is expected at a later date, as is a convertible rouble.

The policy statement promised that foreign firms, now limited to 49 per cent ownership of joint ventures, will be allowed to repatriate profits and guarantee a supply of materials locally, noted John Burgess of Midland Bank Plc.

But the U.S. businessman said Western interest in the Soviet market is being driven more by "the hype of perestroika and the Gorbachev persona" than by government policy.

"It's a lot closer" to major

Western companies' desire for real control, and at least 90 per cent ownership, before they invest in Soviet operations, said one U.S. businessman in Moscow

U.S. Congressional agency urges broad thrifts reforms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Broad reform of the deposit insurance system should be included in any multibillion-dollar rescue package for bankrupt savings and loan institutions, a congressional watchdog agency has said.

The General Accounting Office said in a report prepared for a congressional committee that to handle thrift failures over the next 10 years, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. (FSLIC) likely needs \$85 billion more than it is currently scheduled to receive.

FSLIC insures customer deposits in savings and loans, collecting its revenues from insurance premiums it charges the institutions.

But FSLIC is now bankrupt itself, ending 1987 with a deficit of \$14 billion, at a time when hundreds of insolvent thrifts must be sold or closed out.

At the end of 1987, more than 500 thrifts already were insolvent and insured deposit-taking institutions of all types were going

bankrupt at rates that were exceeded only during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the General Accounting Office (GAO) said.

The GAO report recommends separating FSLIC from the regulatory agency for the savings and loan industry, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, to give it more authority to deal with problem thrifts.

The congressional agency says FSLIC should be reorganized and given new capital to permit it to operate on its own. It does not favour merging FSLIC with the healthy fund that insures commercial bank deposits, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), as some members of Congress have urged.

The savings and loans industry is piling up the biggest loss this year since the depression of the 1930s. Losses in the third quarter were \$1.6 billion, down from \$3.9 billion in both the first and second quarters.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board said the number of insolvent institutions fell from 498 as of June 30 to 434 as of Sept. 30. At the end of last year, there were 520 insolvents.

However, even as the government resolved or stabilized the cases of 86 thrifts, 22 more slipped into insolvency.

James Barth, chief economist of the bank board, declined to say whether he thought thrift institution performance would improve or worsen in the fourth quarter.

Study shows increasing challenge from state companies to oil giants

LONDON (R) — Big Western companies still dominate the sale and refining of oil despite moves by Third World and Gulf states to control the way their prime resource is handled, an independent study has said.

A survey of the world's top 50 oil companies by the New York-based oil journal Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW) said Mexico, Brazil and OPEC producers Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Kuwait were making headway in the refining or "downstream" sector controlled by oil majors for most of the century.

But the six remaining "seven sister" multinationals which ran the oil world until OPEC began to dictate prices and output in the

gas output, oil and gas reserves, refining capacity and petroleum product sales.

The seven became six after Chevron acquired Gulf.

"Refining and marketing still remain dominated by the large international majors," PIW said.

"Shell, alone, sells one of every 10 barrels of products in the non-communist world."

The 50 firms account for more than 80 per cent of oil output outside the East Bloc and hold 90 per cent of crude oil and natural gas liquids reserves outside the East Bloc, PIW said.

The survey, PIW's first in what it plans to be an annual series, tracks six key factors — oil and

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Garuda, Saudia sign air service accord

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian flag carrier Garuda Indonesia Airways and the Saudi Airlines have signed an agreement on air service between the two countries. Under the agreement, each airline would add one scheduled flight a week between Jakarta and Jeddah, with further increases possible, said Sobirin Misbach, director-general for air communication. He signed along with Sheikh Nasser Al Assad, director to the Saudi Civil Aviation Agency. At present, Garuda and Saudia serve the Jakarta-Jeddah route three times a week with Boeing 747 jetliners.

Report urges help to jobless women

BRUSSELS (R) — A European Community (EC) report has accused member states of not doing enough to help unemployed women find jobs and singled out Britain, Spain, Ireland and Belgium for particular criticism. It said although female unemployment was growing faster than male, EC states should be providing more counselling and information about how to find jobs as well as increasing the length of maternity leave. The report said it was hard to estimate how many jobless women there were in the EC because many were not registered for unemployment benefit.

Swiss National Bank raises rates

ZURICH (AP) — The Swiss National Bank announced Friday it is raising its key lending rates by a one-half percentage point effective Dec. 19, in a new display of its tight monetary policy. The discount rate was increased to 3% per cent and the Lombard rate to 5½ per cent. Both rates had last been boosted Aug. 25. The new increase came one day after the West German Bundesbank raised its Lombard rate from 5.0 to 5.5 per cent. In a statement, the bank said the new action took into account the "current situation on the money market and is in compliance with the Swiss National Bank's policy as implied in the money supply target for 1989." The target in money stock expansion is two per cent. Swiss National Bank President Markus Lusser said last June that this should allow the Swiss economy to grow around two per cent without any risk of inflation.

Britain's inflation rate stays at 6.4%

LONDON (AP) — Britain's annual inflation rate held steady at 6.4 per cent in November, the government has said in a report that somewhat eased concerns about resurgent inflation. However, retail prices rose 0.5 per cent in November from the previous month, the Department of Employment said. "There can be no grounds for complacency," Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said. Fighting inflation "remain a clear priority." The government has pushed up interest rates to 13 per cent from a decade-low of 7.5 per cent in June to discourage consumer spending and choke off inflation, which has increased from a 3.3 per cent annual rate in January. In October, the retail price index rose one per cent from the previous month and was up 6.4 per cent from a year earlier. Market expectations had been for an annual inflation rate of between 6.3 per cent and 6.5 per cent in November.

Jakarta allows rupiah to continue slide

JAKARTA (AP) — The Indonesian central bank Friday set the rate of the nation's currency, the rupiah, at 1.728 to one U.S. dollar, down from 1.726 rupials Thursday. Monetary authorities have been allowing the rupiah to decline against the dollar since the beginning of this year to help maintain the competitiveness of Indonesia's non-oil exports. A lower rupiah tends to make Indonesian products less expensive. By the end of July the currency had dropped to 1.693 rupials per dollar from its 1987 level of 1.650. It fell to 1.718 per dollar by the end of November, to 1.720 Dec. 3 and 1.726 Dec. 14. In September 1986, the government devalued the currency by 45 per cent from 1.134 to 1.644 rupials to the dollar, but last year allowed it to rise to 1.650.

Nigeria Airways sacks 3,000 workers

LAGOS (AP) — The administrator of Nigeria Airways has dismissed 3,000 workers, a third of the work force, in a bid to keep the bankrupt airline operating. The airline had earlier sharply reduced its overseas flights after accidents grounded some aircraft and two others were seized for non-payment of debts. It has been denied over-flight rights by some countries for refusing to pay its bills. The airline reportedly owes more than \$1 billion to creditors. International flight attendants were replaced with attendants from domestic flights after several attendants and flight crew members were arrested on drug charges in the United States, Europe and Britain. Some senior officials were among those dismissed, including the director of engineering and maintenance. In addition to management problems, the airline suffered through years of over-valuation of the Nigerian naira and its fares, set by the government, were often below cost.

Norway continues record oil output

OSLO (R) — Norway, Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, last month continued to pump crude at a record rate from its North Sea fields, petroleum companies operating here have said. Output equalled the previous record average, set in October, of 1.22 million barrels oil a day, according to a Reuter survey. Operators said production would not exceed Norway's voluntary 7.5 per cent cutback in planned production growth. Norway, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has enforced the cutback since February 1987, in support of the producer group's efforts to stabilise world oil prices. Norway recently renewed the curbs through the first half of 1989.

Citibank Bahrain promotes two

BAHRAYN — Mr. Mohammad Al Shroogi, vice president and general manager of Citibank Bahrain Branch, has announced that Mr. Zaher Hammouda, vice president and director of Citicorp global payment products, for the

Middle East, Africa and Levant, has been promoted to regional director for South Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Hammouda left Bahrain in November 1988 to assume his new responsibilities and will be based in Singapore. Mr. Hani Al Maskati, who is currently the business development director for the Middle East, has been promoted to director of Citicorp global payments products Middle East, Africa and Levant's business and will continue to be based in Bahrain. Mr. Al Maskati has held several management positions at Citicorp/Citibank during the last few years. Both Mr. Hammouda and Mr. Al Maskati are Bahrainis and have been with Citicorp/Citibank for a number of years.

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Britain gives Kuwait 3 years to cut B.P. stake

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it was giving Kuwait three years to divest more than half of its 21.6 per cent stake in British Petroleum (B.P.) Co Plc to buy back some of the Kuwaiti shares.

B.P. said Wednesday it was holding talks with RTZ over the purchase of B.P.'s minerals business, which industry sources said could be worth some \$3.5 billion.

Trade and industry secretary Lord Young, who told the Kuwait Investment Office in October it had one year to cut its B.P. stake to 9.9 per cent, said he was extending that period to three years. Kuwait had asked for a five-year time limit.

The Kuwait Investment Office, the London-based overseas investment arm of the Kuwait finance ministry, built up its stake after a huge £2.2 billion (\$13 billion) public issue of new B.P. shares flopped last year in the wake of the October stock market crash. Most of the issue represented the British government's remaining stake in B.P.

The cut in Kuwait's B.P. holding was ordered after Britain's watchdog Monopolies and Mergers Commission judged it could lead to a conflict of interests. Kuwait is a major oil producer and a member of OPEC, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

A B.P. spokesman declined to comment on a market rumour

Arab foreign debt sucks 20% of oil export income

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — More than 20 per cent of Arab oil export earnings are now being channelled towards debt servicing, according to an editorial in the "Bulletin" monthly, published by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The "Bulletin" points out that major Arab oil countries are now turning to domestic markets to finance their budget deficits.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Saturday Dec. 17, 1988		
	Central Bank official rates		
U.S. dollar	472.0	474.0	78.3
British Pound Sterling	882.7	883.0	382.4
Deutschmark	268.5	269.5	237.8
Swiss franc	318.5	320.1	77.9
Italian lire (for 100)	86.4	87.0	36.6
Belgian franc (for 10)	127.9	128.5	78.7

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 10, '88 and ending Wednesday Dec. 14, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Per value

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 1988 7

Chess competition opens

His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Mohammad, deputising for His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of His Majesty the King and president of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation, opened the annual chess competition at the University of Jordan today, organised by the students chess club.

Lewis hoisted Celtics above Lakers

BOSTON (AP) — Reggie Lewis scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and Danny Ainge added nine as the Boston Celtics survived Los Angeles' second-half comeback Friday night and beat the Lakers 110-96.

The Celtics, whose 59-43 lead late in the first half dropped to 69-65 in the third quarter and 90-84 in the fourth, took control in the final six minutes.

Bulls 100, Pacers 93

Michael Jordan made four free throws and blocked a shot in the last 1:14 Chicago held on after nearly wasting a 14-point fourth-quarter lead.

Chicago led 66-47 in the third quarter and 90-76 in the fourth before Indiana went on a 17-4 run to pull within a point with one and a half minutes left.

7ers 114, Nets 106

Charles Barkley capped a 17-point run spanning the third and fourth quarters with a dunk as Philadelphia snapped a four-game losing streak.

Philadelphia, which won for the third time in 10 road games, trailed 89-83 with 1:20 left in the third quarter. The 7ers got going as Mike Gminski, a former Nets player, made a 15-foot jumper and Maurice Cheeks drove the



The fate of champions: Wilander struggled for four hours before losing to Carl-Uwe Steeb, while Becker despatched Stefan Edberg with consummate ease.

Unknown beats Wilander

GOTEborg, Sweden (AP) — Carl-Uwe Steeb and Boris Becker beat Sweden's grand slam winners in the opening singles to give West Germany a commanding 2-0 lead over the defending champions in the Davis Cup final Friday night.

Steb was the big hero of the day, coming back from a two-set deficit to upset Mats Wilander in a five-set match lasting five hours on the red indoor clay at the packed Scandinavian arena.

Steb, ranked 74th in the world, stunned the world's top-ranked player 8-10, 1-6, 6-2, 6-8 after saving a match point at 5-6 in the decisive set.

Becker then easily defeated Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 in their first meeting ever on clay.

"I think I played pretty good on clay tonight," said Becker, who scored 30 points, put Atlanta ahead 111-105 with 2:03 left but Milwaukee scored seven straight points.

Suns 132, Trail Blazers 125 Armon Gilliam scored a career-high 41 points and Kevin Johnson had 13 of his 22 in the fourth quarter as Phoenix won its third straight home game.

Portland, which had won the last seven games against Phoenix and 11 of the past 12 games overall, trailed 104-89 after the third quarter and 120-103 with 6:07 remaining.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHANIF

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K 8 7 6
♥ Q K Q J 2
♦ Q 10 9 4
♦ 5

WEST
♦ Q 4 2
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ A K 7
♦ A 9 3
♦ 8 7 6 4 2

EAST
♦ A 10 9 5
♥ A 3
♦ J 3 2
♦ K Q J 10

SOUTH

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♦
Just the timing a defender adopts in taking his tricks can occasionally give away his holding to an astute declarer. The inference on this hand is slight, but is better than nothing at all.

The auction was routine. Note North's up-the-line response of one diamond rather than a major, which gave North-South the opportunity of locating a 4-4 fit in any one of three suits. Yes, we know three no trump is the better contract, but who can you fault? It's difficult to point the finger at either

no time in cashing the king-ace of diamonds and ace of clubs and exiting with a diamond. Declarer was fit with the loss of a trump trick, and the percentage way to avoid that was via a "Demp's Coup." To accomplish the desired ending, declarer first had to decide which defender was more likely to be lying in traps. He concluded that West's meekness was because he had to cash his trumps, so he thought he might have a trump trick, so he elected to play West for three-trumps to an honor trump.

The contract could be made only if West's distribution was specifically 3-4-3-3. So declarer won the diamond, cashed the ace and king of hearts and ruffed hearts. Next he cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club. Then he returned to hand with a heart ruff.

Declarer and East were now down to two trumps and club each, while dummy and West each held three trumps. When declarer led his last club, West was ruffed. If he ruffed low, declarer would overruff on the take and score the last two tricks with the ace-king of trumps. If he ruffed with the queen, dummy would overruff with the king and a finesse of the ten of trumps would yield the last two tricks. Making four-odd.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a better understanding of what you want and how to proceed. Important issues and plans can be successfully discussed. Correct misunderstandings that have created tension in the past.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your mood changes when you have had enough rest and relaxation. You are ready for social activities and spending time with friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go where there are new fresh recreational possibilities. Holiday gift shopping for those who are hard to buy for may go well today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is easier for you to be organized today. You are ready to deal with young people and can teach them a lot. Your ideas are stimulating.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You move forward with important changes. The current atmosphere surrounding finances is not shared by family members.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Love要注意。Feelings can get out of hand. Sensual emotions are difficult to control. Get involved in stimulating social activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Disrupted routines can be mended.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18)

A provocative acquaintance makes a surprise contact. Encounters, but keep sensitive contact to where you can control. Stay close to family.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) A shake-up at home is resolved when chores are re-assigned. Creative projects are energized. You win respect and affection.

Norwich stays on top at Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Norwich kept their place on top of the English soccer first division Saturday when they improved the best away record in the league with a 1-0 win over defending champions Liverpool.

Midfielder Andy Townsend struck the decisive goal after 60 minutes to earn Norwich their first victory in six matches and leave Liverpool beaten at home for the second time this season.

It was Norwich's sixth win in eight away matches — a vivid contrast to the champions' disappointing home record of two wins, four draws and two defeats.

Second-placed Arsenal, who could have gone top if Norwich had lost or drawn and they had won, supplied the result they required by beating Manchester United 2-1 at Highbury to end a run of four games without success.

Edberg changed tactics in the third set, playing more aggressive tennis. The Swede had two chances to take a 4-2 lead, but Becker saved both break points.

Becker's only service break came in the seventh game, after nailing a brilliant return. That made it 4-3. The German only lost two points in his remaining two service games, wrapping up the match with a smash.

Steb said he had never played as well in his career. "I'm so happy," he said. "I just went for my strokes all day."

Wilder, a three-time French Open champion known for his superb physical condition, had never before lost a five-set match after winning the first two sets. "I played more aggressive in the end and made my own points," Steeb said. "Mats looked tired and he missed his passing shots when I came in."

It was a bitter defeat for Wilder, who won the Australian, French and U.S. Open titles this year but has struggled in the last two months.

The Swede was upset before his home fans in an early round of the Stockholm Open early last month.

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Sofia meeting first after Gorbachev decision

Warsaw Pact discusses pullout

SOFIA (R) — Warsaw Pact defence ministers gathered in Sofia Saturday for their first joint meeting since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced sweeping cuts in troops and equipment in Eastern Europe.

The official Bulgarian news agency BTA said the ministers of the seven-member communist defence alliance had arrived in Sofia for the meeting chaired by Commander-in-Chief Viktor Kulikov of the Soviet Union.

It is their first meeting since Gorbachev made his dramatic announcement Dec. 8 that total Soviet forces would be cut by 500,000 in two years, and that six tank divisions and 50,000 men would be withdrawn from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Soviet Arms Control Chief and Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov told a Moscow news briefing Thursday that the tanks withdrawn would include both old and new models.

His statement was seen as a response to fears expressed by

some North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) officials that the effect of the move could be diminished if it involved only old equipment.

Karpov also said troops remaining in the three countries would be reorganized into purely defensive units.

Although Moscow's allies have publicly supported the Soviet move, diplomats in the region said some East Bloc military leaders might have reservations.

Soviet armed forces Chief of Staff Sergei Akhromeyev, a World War II veteran who rose during the Stalin era in which massive military strength was emphasised, stepped down from the post earlier this month, officially for health reasons.

Karpov denied reports that Akhromeyev, 65, had resigned

because of disagreement over the Gorbachev initiative. He was replaced by 49-year-old Colonel Mikhail Moiseyev.

The deputy minister declined to comment on reports that Soviet Defence Minister General Dmitry Yazov, 65, might also soon step down and be replaced by a civilian. Yazov was reported to have arrived in Sofia for the current meeting.

Diplomats in the region said there might be some concern over the extent of the Soviet cuts among senior officers in the Warsaw Pact forces, most of whom are also war veterans likely to have been influenced by Stalin's policies.

In Czechoslovakia, Communist Party leader Milos Jakes went out of his way recently to dispel any suggestions that the 80,000 Soviet troops stationed in the country since the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, which crushed the "Prague spring" reform and installed the regime he now leads, were there for domestic reasons.

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The widow of Prime Minister Olof Palme has agreed to try to identify a 41-year-old Swede being held in the investigation of her husband's fatal shooting, Expressen newspaper reported Saturday.

Christer Pettersson, who was arrested Wednesday, pleaded innocent Friday in a preliminary hearing. But a judge ruled there were reasonable grounds to suspect he killed Palme and ordered him held for further investigation.

Palme, the dominant figure in Swedish politics for more than a decade, was shot at close

range and killed Feb. 28, 1986, while walking home unguarded from a downtown movie theatre with his wife Lisbet, who was grazed by a bullet.

However, it was not certain she would be summoned to make an identification, according to the report.

"We would like to spare her as long as possible," Expressen quoted a source close to the investigation as saying. "If we can do without her testimony we will try to do that."

Prosecutor Jorgen Almblad complained, meanwhile, about publication of Pettersson's picture in foreign newspapers,

saying that would complicate the case.

"If a witness says he has seen the photograph of a suspect in the paper, the value of the evidence will be rather low at a confrontation," Almblad said on Swedish radio.

Several witnesses have picked out Pettersson as the man seen standing outside the movie theatre before Palme and his wife emerged, press reports said Saturday.

Nothing has surfaced, however, to indicate that he was actually the gunman.

The killer followed the couple down the street for several

blocks before the shooting, then escaped down a dark alley.

Sweden's press and libel regulations prohibit publication in this country of the names and pictures of suspects in criminal cases, in some instances even after a person has been convicted.

However, personal information about Sweden is easily available from various national offices. Since his arrest, Pettersson's name has been a matter of public record, and anyone can obtain a picture of him for a three-kronor (\$0.50) fee at the central passport office.

Stealth cost revealed

WASHINGTON (R) — The air force said Friday that each of its planned 132 Stealth bombers, designed to be invisible to enemy radar, is expected to cost \$15.9 million.

"The Soviets know what the plane can do. Whatever it costs is worth it," Air Force Secretary Edward Aldridge told reporters in estimating the total cost of the programme at \$68.1 billion after inflation is taken into account.

The first flying-wing design aircraft built by Northrop Corporation will become operational in mid-1991 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and the last will probably be delivered in mid-1995, Aldridge said.

The first B-2 was briefly rolled out of a hangar at Northrop's California plant last month and is expected to make its first flight to Edwards Air Force Base in California within the next two months to begin flight tests.

The aircraft has no tail or fuselage like current planes. It is designed with sharp edges and made of composite materials which will not reflect an identifiable object to enemy radar operators.

Despite Friday's air force estimate, some critics of the programme have estimated that the planes could actually cost more than \$750 million each and say that it could not find Soviet mobile missiles effectively.

The air force said that the cost of the programme in 1981 dollars would be \$4.5 billion, 16 per cent more than the original estimate of \$3.6 billion. But those figures do not take inflation into account.

It estimated the cost in "then year" (inflated) dollars at \$8.1 billion.

Despite criticism of the high cost of the aircraft in the face of expected defence budget problems, Aldridge said it is needed. Other B-2 supporters, including Senate Armed Forces Committee Chairman Sam Nunn of Georgia, has said it will make the costly Soviet air defence system obsolete.

Critics of the Stealth programme have warned that the Pentagon should move very slowly on developing the B-2 because of electronic and other problems experienced in the U.S. B-1 strategic bomber, which is now deployed.

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In March, the contras and the Sandinistas signed a truce which set out a mechanism for ending the war. The rebels broke off peace talks in June, accusing the Sandinistas of intransigence. An uneasy ceasefire is still in place.

Panamanian leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega has survived attempts by Washington to oust him.

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Washington has also faced a series of setbacks in 1988, with governments in Nicaragua and Panama set to oust President Reagan despite his efforts to force them from power.

President-elect George Bush will have to contend with U.S. allies in Central America who appear wary of U.S. policies.

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January.

But the plan, calling for democratic reforms and an end to foreign support of insurgents, has stagnated. None of the presidents are now talking of Central American peace in 1989.

A new summit will be held in El Salvador in January but Salvadoran President Jose Napoleón Duarte said: "We shouldn't expect spectacular results."

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